The Groundplane

SBARA— The South Bay Amateur Radio Association

May, 2014
Volume 14, Issue 5

ARRL Member Club Since 1974

President's Corner……

It's hard to believe that it's already May, which means that Field Day is just around the corner. SBARA will be participating in Field Day 2014, at Lake Elizabeth, the weekend of June 28th and 29th, with setup beginning on Friday, June 27th at 11 am. Be sure to read Al's article, in this issue, which includes details about the picnic.

In case you aren't already familiar with it, Field Day is an annual event sponsored by the ARRL. It is part educational, part operating, and part public relations event. It is an opportunity for the club to demonstrate, to the community, how ham radio stations can be setup and run on emergency power as if we were supporting a disaster. It's also an opportunity to share our hobby with the general public, while having fun operating HF in a contest-like environment.

I have participated in Field Day several times over the years, but was never able to commit to more than a few hours to help setup and then later operate. however last year I made a concerted effort to commit to the entire weekend...including setting up a tent to sleep in. It's one of the few times, if not the only time, you will see anyone able to sleep in a tent at Central Park!

I discovered quite quickly that, like many things in life, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. In short...I had a blast! I had fun talking about ham radio to various visitors, who stopped by the site, including the Vice Mayor and the new Fire Chief. I also enjoyed either logging for an operator (a great way to start while learning operating techniques) or operating a radio. I learned about Search and Pounce (spin the dial, find a station, and call them) vs. Running (calling CQ). You really have to do a combination of both. The Elecraft K3 was a joy to operate, but I had to be careful to wipe my drool off of it when I was done! ;-) That rig, with the matching amplifier, is VERY cool!

I encourage everyone to try and MAKE time, to join us Friday, to help setup the stations and antennas; Saturday, to log, operate, and/or come for the picnic; and Sunday, to log or operate. Also...if you have kids or have friends or family with kids, encourage them to come and check out all that is going on. Stay tuned for more details that will be shared in the newsletter, via email, as well as the June meeting.

In this day and age of cell phones, iPods, and iPads, Ham Radio is the one form of communications that is guaranteed to work, if power is lost in a disaster! We are proving that at Field Day, while having a lot of fun! Come join us!

"Setting up a self-sufficient EMCOMM station in the Field"

This presentation will discuss what you, as a Ham Operator, should have ready to go before a disaster happens. We will cover what should be in your go bag and your vehicle, as well as alternate ways to get power for short or long term deployments. We will talk about what you can expect to happen once you are on site during a training or real event and how you can learn from each event to help you at the next one.

Membership meeting at 7:30 PM this Friday, May 9th. Meetings are held at Hurricane Electric on Mission Court off Warm Springs Blvd.

SBARA Field Day 2014—June 27th., 28th., and 29th.

SBARA FIELD DAY 2014 – JUNE 27TH, 28TH & 29TH.
Central Park will be teeming with RF signals and excitement for all. Mark your calendar for this year's ARRL sponsored SBARA Field Day. The SBARA planning committee is again planning a picnic on Saturday the 28th between 12 noon and 2:00 pm. Last years picnic was a big success and as we expected, the time was better than late afternoon when the Fremont wind comes up.

The club will bring in picnic type entrées such as BBQ pulled pork or sliced beef brisket with all the fixings. Drinks, plates and flatware will be also provided.

Just bring yourself and a chair for each member of your family…remember, it will be a picnic and more informal than the potluck dinners. Any suggestions for the food or any other item for the picnic is welcomed by the Field Day planning committee. Send your ideas to wt6k@arrl.net.

The fun and excitement begins on Friday at 11:00 AM with setting up all the equipment and station tents.

Stay tuned in. Read the Groundplane and the monthly e-mail notifications for more Field Day details.
73,
Al
WT6K

HF Pack Events—May 17, 2014 Dayton, Ohio

HF Pack Dayton Events Saturday May 17th.

Map and Details on the HF Pack Website at: http://hfpack.com

HF Talk-In—18157.5 kHz USB
VHF—144.300 Mhz FM Simplex PL Tone= 151.4

See Your There!
Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA
HFpack Founder

A Teaser for Amateur Slow Scan TV

In addition to CW, Voice, RTTY, PSK and several other text transmission modes, Radio Amateurs have been enjoying transmission of pictures by using Slow Scan Television. Slow-scan television (SSTV), also called Narrow Band TV, is a method of transmitting pictures, used mainly by amateur radio operators, to exchange static pictures via amateur radio in monochrome or color. It takes up a small bandwidth, usually only about 3Khz, using voice frequencies in the HF, VHF and UHF amateur bands.

Several encoding techniques have been developed and a picture transmission can take from half a minute to several minutes. In the early stages of space exploration NASA is said to have used SSTV to transmit images of the Moon.

Initial development of SSTV used analogue modulation yielding good image quality, however it was susceptible to noise (QRM), fading (QSB), and interference (QRN) on the frequency. Recent developments into using digital encoding and error correction techniques have led development of software for excellent image reproduction.

ANALOGUE MODULATION SAMPLE

DIGITAL ENCODING SAMPLE

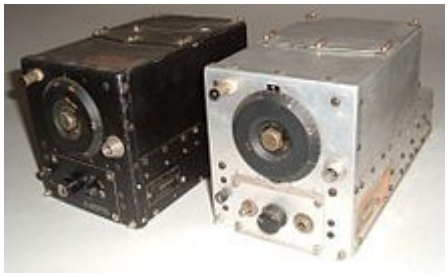
With a regular HF station setup, one needs an inexpensive audio and PTT interface from a PC to the HF radio and a software program like MMSSTV, EasyPal, HRD Digital Master, etc. Each software has a different set of menus, buttons and windows but eventually achieve the same purpose. EasyPal is considered especially better for Digital SSTV.

There is a lot of information on the web, but to get you started, look for a Show-N-Tell during one of the SBARA Member Meetings, in the coming months. The SBARA HF net on Wednesdays will provide an excellent opportunity for enjoying such new Amateur Radio technologies and having much fun. Hope to see you soon.

World War II and Amateur Radio, Historical

During the German occupation of Poland, the priest Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans.[22] The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved in espionage[23] and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941. After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men. On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity.[22] He is considered the Patron saint of Amateur radio operators.[23]

Again during World War II, as it had done during the first World War, the United States Congress suspended all amateur radio operations.[12] With most of the American amateur radio operators in the armed forces at this time, the US government created the War emergency radio service which would remain active through 1945. After the War the amateur radio service began operating again, with many hams converting war surplus radios, such as the ARC-5, to amateur use.



Two radios in the ARC-5 series. Unit on the left is a BC-453-B, covering 190-530 kHz; the one on the right is a BC-454-E, covering 3-6 MHz. Both have been modified for Amateur Radio use by replacing the front connector with a small control panel.

SBARA Membership meeting at 7:30 PM this Friday, March 14th. Meetings are held at Hurricane Electric on Mission Court off Warm Springs Blvd. We meet for a 6:00 PM pre-meeting dinner at Ho Chow Restaurant, On Warm Springs Blvd at Gable Drive. Check the SBARA website for addresses and details.

SBARA Weekly Nets—Voice and CW Action!!

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm, Thursday on 144.230 MHz and Sunday on 7.057MHz +/- 3 kHz
You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this Net.
The net has now its own email address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>
–... ...--
Bernhard AE6YN

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net is take place….Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.
Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net
–... ...--
Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA VE Testing Schedule

Exam Dates are listed on the SBARA Website at: www.sbara.orq and on the left-hand side of the vertical navigation listing and then select License Exams. All of the Exam dates are listed within this data window.

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. Contact: Greg Miller, wy6p at arrl dot net for info. $15 fee, bring a photo ID. Walk-ins allowed.

ARRL VEC

SBARA Club station KU6S
Please visit us at www.sbara.org
SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
Meetings: every 2nd Friday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Ct., Fremont

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 25th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

March Action Packed Meeting

May 9th., 2014 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur License Exams

ARRL VEC– May 10th., @ 9:00 pm at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. Contact: Greg , ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. $15 fee.

Additional information is described on our Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW — 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW —223.900—500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW —442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES Net Meeting —Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5